



February 3, 2003

Marlene H. Dortch, Commission Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St. SW
CY-B402
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Proceeding 03-16

Dear Ms. Dortch:

I hope this correspondence finds you in good health and great spirits. My name is Joe Jones and I am a small business owner here in Grand Rapids. I am also 2nd Vice President of the Greater Grand Rapids Branch of the NAACP Executive Committee, and an Executive Board member of the Grand Rapids Urban League. I have watched SBC/Ameritech evolve over the years and have always felt that they have a solid record of service and that their commitment to the Michigan community is unparalleled.

Therefore, I support SBC/Ameritech Michigan's effort to gain long distance approval. The local telephone market here in Michigan is flourishing with the addition of MCI, AT&T, and TDS Metrocom offering choice when it comes to local service. It is my belief that SBC/Ameritech should be afforded the same opportunity in the long distance market.

America is all about the freedom to choose. We have the choice to shop for goods and services like groceries, cars, auto insurance, schools, etc. The list goes on and on. However, the beauty of it all is that we have the freedom of choice. Because SBC/Ameritech has been so effective in providing local service over the years, there should be no hesitation in allowing them the same opportunity to provide quality and affordable long distance service to the residents of Michigan. More competition means better value to the customer base. If GM, Ford & Daimler Chrysler don't make a good product and offer incentives than the Hondas, Toyotas, and BMWs of the world gain market share by satisfying the customer by offering value and incentives. That's what it's all about, satisfying us, the consumer.

I implore you to do the right thing and give the consumers of Michigan every opportunity to save money so that we can spend our resources on other goods and services, therefore giving a boost to the economy and help in getting this great state and our great country out of this economic slump that we are in. Please clear the path for SBC/Ameritech to offer long distance so that we as consumers can get the best bang for our buck. With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely,

Joseph D. Jones
Partner

cc: John Schwartz, SBC/Ameritech External Affairs Manager

